5/12/71 NY TIMES (THEY LEFT OUT JACQUELINE RUBY KEELER)

Reported Carter-Assassination Plot Given Credibility by New Evidence

LOS ANGELES, May 11 (UPI) — Investigators have found evidence, including a gun case, ammunition and corroborative testimony, that adds credibility to a reported plot to assassinate President Carter, originally dismissed as a tale spun by an intoxicated man.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today that they had found support for the story told by Raymond Lee Harvey, who was arrested by the Secret Service when he was found carrying a starter pistol near the President.

Mr. Harvey, 35 years old, contended that he was supposed to have fired the harmless starter pistol into the ground at an appearance by Mr. Carter in Los Angeles last weekend, creating a "diversion" for the real assassins to shoot the President.

After his arrest about 50 feet from where Mr. Carter was speaking Saturday, Mr. Harvey told Secret Service agents that he was part of a four-man plot to kill Mr. Carter.

Arrest Despite Disbelief

Another man, identified as Osvaldo Espinoza-Ortiz, 21, was also taken into custody, but agents initially dismissed the tale and turned both over to the police.

As information was uncovered this the week, Mr. Harvey was charged with conspiring to kill the President and was held in $50,000 bail. United States Magistrate Harvey A. Schneider yesterday ordered Mr. Espinoza-Ortiz held under $100,000 bail as a material witness after weighing an affidavit from the F.B.I. Mr. Espinoza-Ortiz, Mr. Schneider said, "might turn out to be a defendant."

Agents said that Mr. Espinoza-Ortiz had admitted being with Mr. Harvey and test-firing a starter pistol on the eve of the alleged assassination attempt.

Knowledge of Plot Denied

He originally denied he knew of any plot or was acquainted with Mr. Harvey, although he was about 10 feet away from Mr. Harvey when arrested.

In the affidavit submitted yesterday, Federal agents said that Mr. Espinoza-Ortiz had since confirmed Mr. Harvey's story that they went to the roof of the Alan Hotel the night before Mr. Carter's arrival and "fired seven rounds from a starter pistol in order to test how loud the pistol was."

Mr. Espinoza-Ortiz also agreed with Mr. Harvey that they knew two Mexicans at the hotel who had rifles. Mr. Harvey told agents that he had been told of the plot by the three others in a room at the hotel and that he understood they would fire the fatal shots when he created the distraction with the starter pistol, which could fire only blanks.

Two Mexicans did live at the hotel, and one of them frequently associated with Mr. Espinoza-Ortiz, the F.B.I. said. They checked out the day of Mr. Carter's visit. One of them gave his name as Umberto Camacho, agents said.

City police detectives found a gun case and three rounds of live ammunition in the room rented to Mr. Camacho, the affidavit said.

Man Sentenced in Carter Threat

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 11 (AP) — A 23-year-old Bloomington, Ill., man has been sentenced to 10 years in Federal prison for threatening the life of President Carter. Keith Rodney Roberts Sr. was sentenced yesterday by Federal District Judge J. Waldo Ackerman. Mr. Roberts was convicted April 21.

United States Attorney Gerald D. Fines said that the threats were made last Aug.